



**GREEN COAST**

UNDISCOVERED GEM OF MEDITERRANEAN

# ENRICHING EXPERIENCES & MOMENTS

- Get prepared to live a Fairy Tale
- Explore fantastic turquoise waters
- Get introduced to noble scenes of mountain beauty



MONTENEGRO

KOSOVO

MACEDONIA

TIRANA

**ALBANIA**



300 Days

ITALY

PALASA

GREECE



GREEN COAST  
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# Palasa Caesar's Path...



“ The remarkably conspicuous landmarks of Acroceraunia and the modern Strada Bianca, near Palaeste, are both visible far out at sea, and would imply that Caesar was able to accurately navigate to his chosen destination ”

Lucan, Pharsalia




# ALBANIA

**a small country in the Mediterranean**

where nature, culture, history and gastronomy combine to create a paradise destination for those who love the wild nature, charm and air.







**T**here's so much to explore the many must-sees and must-dos of Central-South Albania, from outdoor adventures to the infinite number of castles and towns from every historical era.

Today Albania's image as a tourism destination, in markets such as the USA, UK, Germany, Italy, Benelux and northern Europe, is highly reputable and is associated to affordable exclusivity, intriguing food and cultural experiences, undiscovered wild life, UNESCO World Heritage sites and S&B vacations.

***"Albania is full of magical places: Gjirokaster City, the Blue Eye, Lake Skadar, Ksamil, Butrinti, and more"***

Bridge Side, 2018

***"Albania's star has been rising, with more travellers each year wanting to explore its treasures, such as the Accursed Mountains of the north, and wild beautiful white beaches of the south".***

The Guardian, 2018

***"The beaches are beautiful, the villages quaint – look towards the medieval town of Kruja, Apollonia's ruins and Berat, the Unesco World Heritage site famous(ish) for Byzantine churches and Ottoman architecture".***

The Irish Times, 2018

***"The unspoilt snapshot of the Mediterranean, idyllic beach and glorious sunshine".***

The Guardian, 2007

***"The scene was savage, but the scene was new; This made the ceaseless toil of travel sweet"***

Lord Byron



# ALBANIA

## UNESCO HERITAGES

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### **National Park of Butrint**

Declared "Monument in Protection" by the Albanian State in 1948.

Registered as an UNESCO world heritage in 1992. Inclusion in the List of Monuments at Risk in 1997. It was further expanded in 1999.

### **The museum City of Gjirokastra**

Declared as a "Museum City" by the Albanian state in 1961. Declared as a world heritage in 2005. Gjirokastra is a unique testimony of a cultural tradition of life during the XIV - XIX centuries.



### **City of Berat**

Registered as a world heritage in 2005 and ratified in 2008. Berati is the city where can be found traces of the Illyrian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods, rich in old churches with wonderful wall paintings, icons and wood engraving. In 1961 the city was put under the protection of the Albanian state and was declared a "Museum City".





## Albanian Folk Iso-polyphony

Proclaimed "masterpiece of the oral heritage of humanity" protected by UNESCO. "Albanian folk iso-polyphony" was added to the list of "Masterpieces of the oral heritage of humanity" protected by UNESCO, a fact that was heralded in all media world by Dr. Koichiro Matsura, General Director of UNESCO, the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

## Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe

The Gashi River located in Tropojë - Northeastern Albania, and the ancient beech forests of Rrajcë in Përrenjas - Central Albania, are the first two Albanian natural sites that have received UNESCO protection on 2017 as an extension of the World Heritage site of the Primeval Beech Forests. They demonstrate the postglacial expansion process of such forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure and mixed stands of European Beech across a variety of environmental conditions.



### Application in tentative for UNESCO protection

- Amphitheatre of Durrës
- Royal Tombs of Selca
- Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites of the Ohrid Region

# SOUTH ALBANIA

## TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



### The Amphitheatre of Durrës

The largest of all public buildings constructed in Dyrrachium during the 1st and 2nd centuries CE is the amphitheatre, with an estimated capacity of 15,000 - 20,000 people, situated near the center of the modern city. Other important archaeological finds are the public baths dating back from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, the remains of a 15 km long aqueduct built during the reign of Hadrian, the Byzantine era walls and the round forum-macellum built in the 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, centuries CE.



### Byllis

Established in the 3rd century BCE, once flourished as a political, economic and cultural center in the region. Being governed by a body of civil servants, the introduction of a bronze currency system and a reputation for having skilled artisans were the hallmarks of this powerful society. The cathedral is perhaps the most impressive area within Byllis. It consists of the basilica, the baptistery and the diocese complex. The threshold leading to the entryway is made with an extensive mosaic. Notably, it is the largest mosaic discovered in Albania to date. It displays diverse motifs and scenes reflecting the daily life of shepherds, anglers and others. The walls of this cathedral had beautiful frescoes at the time, and several depicting geometrical shapes still remain.



### Apollonia

Cicero, the famed Roman orator, was captivated by the beauty of Apollonia, and in his -Philippics, referred to it as -magna urbs et gravis, or -the great and important city. The ancient city, founded in the 7th century BCE by Greek settlers from Corinth and Corcyra, is located 11 km west of the modern city of Fier. Among the most interesting remains are the city council building, the library, the triumphal arch and the temple of Artemis. The Odeon, from the 2nd century BCE, is also noteworthy, as it once accommodated approximately 10,000 spectators. There is also a spectacular 77 m long stoa with a covered walkway. The site is easily accessible and it offers both unique views of the Adriatic coastline and numerous historical and archaeological items of great interest to visitors.





## National Park of Butrint

Bouthrotos is located on the southwestern coast of Albania, facing the Greek island of Corfu. The site has been occupied approximately since the 8th century BCE, but legends hint at the city's foundation by Trojan exiles. Augustus founded a colony in Butrint and the town remained a relatively small Roman port until the 6th century CE. Butrint is, of course the most important and the most frequently visited archaeological site of Albania. And part of UNESCO Heritage site since 1992. The Butrinti Lake is the most important one not only for the area but one of most important in Albania. It is special because of the biodiversity of flora and fauna.



## Antigoneia

Antigoneia was a very short-lived city, lasting for approximately 150 years. It was founded by one of the most famous names of the ancient world, King Pyrrhus of Epirus (319-272 BC), from whom the phrase 'a Pyrrhic victory' derives. At the outset of the 3rd-century BC Pyrrhus was forced to go and fight in Egypt. His abilities impressed Berenice, the wife of King Ptolemy of Egypt, who decided to offer him her daughter, Antigone, in marriage. In token of his gratitude to his mother-in-law and his first wife, Pyrrhus decided to build Antigoneia.



## Finiq

Finiq (Phoenice) is located near the modern city of Saranda and is about 20 km north of Butrint Lake and the Albanian border with Greece. The site is rich in findings from the Classical to the Byzantine period. Ancient sources mentioned the wealth of the city, especially during the Hellenistic period, between the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE, when Finiq was a prominent city in the Epirot League. Phoenice boasts several archaeologically important relics, including a small prostyle temple, a theater, exemplars of Hellenistic houses, and several Roman water cisterns. This picturesque site also contains an important Byzantine church.



# VLORA

## THE NYMPH OF MEDITERRANEAN

Vlora has been described by the journeymen of all times as a nymph in the shores of Ionian Sea and as a pearl of the Mediterranean coasts. Surrounded and crowned all over by Illyrian castles such as the Himara, Kanina, Borsh, and Porto-Palermo castles, by the ancient Amantia stadium, Triport, Mesaplik mosaic and Gramata' scripture carvings, carries upon its shoulders centuries filled with history. Vlora is one of the most ancient cities of Albania founded in the sixth century B.C as a Greek colony named Aulona. Throughout the centuries Vlora would play a central role thanks to its strategic position in the Roman Empire, during the Norman Kingdom of Sicily and in the Byzantine Empire as well. The sea opening of Vlora would always make it attractive to consistent conquests by the Serbs, Ottomans and Venetians. The long and strong Ottoman influence is still present today with buildings such as the great mosque at its center which was built in 1542 by the well-known Turkish Architect Sinan Mimar. Present open museums of the ancient culture cherished by this area are: the Marmiroi Church in Oricum, the Armen Church, the Episcopal Center in Himara, in Kanina and elsewhere, the Gjon Bocari Castle in Tragjas, the Himara Castle, the Castles of Kanina, Porto Palermo, Katafiq in Kuc, the Mespalik Mosaic, the Sherishta and Gorrisht Mosaics, the Gramata scriptures, the Cave of Hajj Ali, the Velca Cave, the carved Cave of Lepenica and also the antique stadium of Amantia. Vlora was the epicenter of the Albanian world where the delegates from all over the Albanian inhabited areas gathered under the guidance of Ismail Qemali and proclaimed Vlora the first capital of the independent Albania in November 28th, 1912. Prestigious world tourism institutions have praised Vlora as the pearl of the Albanian Riviera.







# VLORA

## ATTRACTIONS



### Amantia

The Amantia National Park lies in a spectacular location, high in the Kurvelesh Mountains to the east of the city of Vlora. A rough road leads the visitor there, some 50 minutes drive from Vlora.

Amantia was the historical capital of the Illyrian tribe of Amantes and was founded around the V century, BCE. It is located in the present day city of Pllloça in the Vlora River Valley. At its peak, Amantia featured an acropolis and a Doric-style temple dedicated to Aphrodite. Most notable among the preserved features is the stadium, measuring 60 X 12.5m. A significant sculpture, the relief of the God of Fertility, can be seen at the National Historic Museum. Additional relics from Amantia are on display at the Archaeological Museum in Tirana.



### The ancient city of Orikum

Orikum (Orikos) is today a small coastal town, but with a very rich history, about 40 km south of the archaeological site of Apollonia. According to Pliny, colonists from Colchis established the city of Orikum. Its geographical position made it an important harbor and a trading center on the Adriatic coast. Orikum was important to military as well. Julius Caesar used the area as a troop encampment for several months until Pompeius Magnus took them. Being subject to such varied cultural influences, Orikum became a thriving urban center. This is evident by various archaeological ruins, such as part of an orchestra platform and a small theater with the capacity to hold 400 spectators. Additionally, ruins of protective walls and streets are visible lying underwater in a lagoon.



### National Park of LLogara

National Park of Llogara is situated 40 km south of Vlora at the dividing point between the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. This park is notable for its expansive pine forests. The Flag Pine is among the most massive species and is remarkable for its ecological significance. Aerial activities are popular here, with numerous paragliding competitions being held within the boundaries of the park. Vistas of the nearby Vetëtima Mountain Range and the picturesque beaches serve as the perfect setting for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.



# Rich variety of water sources, diversified landscapes and protected areas



Canyon of Gjipe



Zverneci island



Shushica valley



Blue Eye Spring



Pirates Cave



Dafina Underwater Cave



Tangerine Trees



Ksamil View



Olive Trees





### **Karaburun - Sazan**

The only Marine Park in Albania. Consists of surrounding sea water 1 nautical mile from the shores of the Karaburun Peninsula and Sazan Island.



### **Ali Pasha Castle in Porto Palermo Bay**

It is a small castle situated in a very beautiful position in a peninsula in a small tectonic bay of Porto Palermo (known in antiquity as Bay of Panormes). The castle is no far from Qeparo village and has a pentagonal shape (dimensions 150 x 400 x 20 m). Ali Pasha, constructed this castle in honour of his wife, Vasiliqia, as well to serve as control point.





## Lekursi Castle

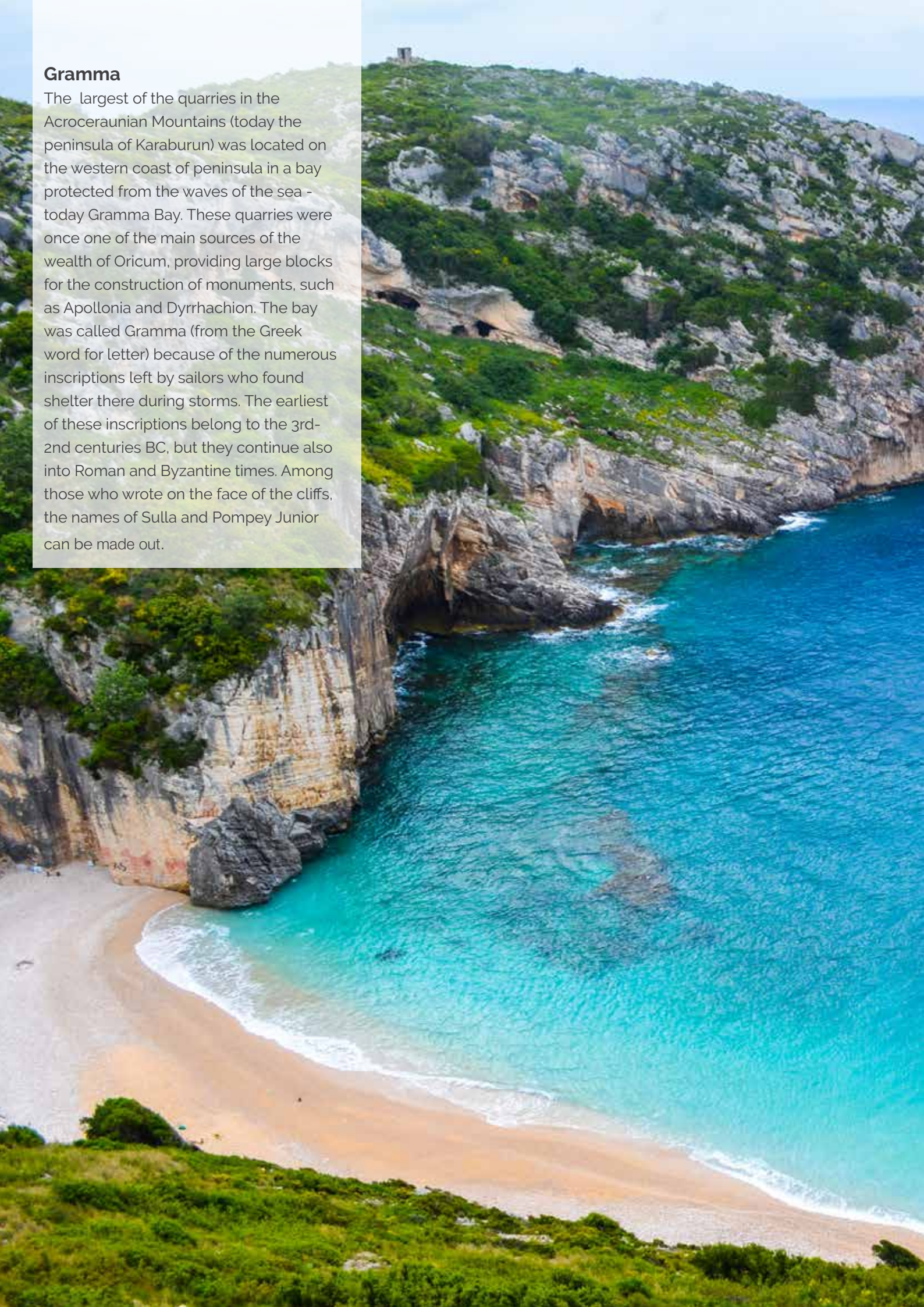
Situated 2 km on the south part of Saranda city. The castle has quadrangular shape where there is a tower in each corner. According to some quarries the castle is constructed in year 1537 from Sulejman Sultan, during his invasion campaign into Korfuz Island. The castle is situated into a very upmost hill ad offers a beautiful view. In the castle there is a restaurant.





## Gramma

The largest of the quarries in the Acroceraunian Mountains (today the peninsula of Karaburun) was located on the western coast of peninsula in a bay protected from the waves of the sea - today Gramma Bay. These quarries were once one of the main sources of the wealth of Oricum, providing large blocks for the construction of monuments, such as Apollonia and Dyrrhachion. The bay was called Gramma (from the Greek word for letter) because of the numerous inscriptions left by sailors who found shelter there during storms. The earliest of these inscriptions belong to the 3rd-2nd centuries BC, but they continue also into Roman and Byzantine times. Among those who wrote on the face of the cliffs, the names of Sulla and Pompey Junior can be made out.







### Livestock

Traditionally, livestock farming has been the most important economical activity in all the villages, mostly for breeding goats and sheep. Livestock provides another source of food and income with products such as milk, cheese, butter, curd (gjize) and meat throughout the year for many families of rural area in villages of Radhima, Dukat, Tragjas, Dhermiu, Ilias, Vuno, Himara, Qeparo, Kudhes, Pilur, Lukova, Borsh, Piqeras, Corraj Fterre, Nivice, and all the villages of Shushica River valley. It is also a source for tourism related businesses of accommodation and restaurants by furnishing them with locally produced goods.

### Farming

Traditionally, farming has not been an important economical activity in Dukati valley area, in Ionian coastal area and Shushica River valley area. Farming is especially developed in Delvina, Vrina, Xarra, Mursi areas. Xarra is the biggest mandarin producing area in Albania. Agricultural activity has been traditionally carried out by villagers in their small gardens cultivating vegetables for their own needs in all the villages of Rradhima area, Dukati valley area, Ionian coastal area and Shushica River valley area; olive harvesting is another activity carried out by villagers in all these areas known for olive growing as well as in Saranda and Delvina areas.



### Beekeeping and honey production

This activity is concentrated especially in the villages of Shushica River Valley as Kuc, Vranisht, Terbac, Kallarat, Brataj, Gjorm, Lepenice, Sevaster etc. In spite of very favourable climate, environmental conditions and great potentials for its development, apiculture is a rare activity in the coastal area, mainly developed in Palasa.

### Handicraft

Hand looming is a well developed tradition mainly in Shushica River Valley's villages as Kuc, Kallarat, Terbac, Gjorm, Vranisht, where some women's possess handlooms and produce carpets, bags, wool socks, etc. Also Himara is well known in the region for its carpet-producing which has a long tradition there. Many artisans work the stone and wood, to produce artistic objects and decorations, including fifes, ceilings and furniture.



Other activities. Some other economic activities where local population is involved are trade, construction industry, olive oil production, dairy produce, herbs collection, etc.



# PALASA

*Cerauniorum saxa inter et alia loca periculosa quietam nactus stationem'*

*(between the rocks of the Ceraunian range and other dangerous places,  
he came upon a calm anchorage).*


*Caesar, Civil War*











On January 5th, 48 BC, Julius Caesar set sail in bad weather from Brindisium at the head of seven Roman legions (10,000 soldiers) with the other part of the fleet. He did this to avoid the mightier navy of Pompey, which controlled the Adriatic coast. The next day he landed in Palaeste (present day Palasa) on the coast of the Germinj, which is north of Himara and near the present day village of Dhermi. Still to the present day the terminology can be mentioned as 'Caesar's path'. After a forced march over the Acroceraunian Mountains, he seized Oricum. This sudden success forced Apollonia to succumb without a fight, and the Byllines, Amantes and Epirotes swore fealty and obedience. When Pompey learned of Caesar's landing, he was in Candavia (Babja of Librazhd), coming down with his army along the Via Egnatia from Macedonia to Dyrrhachion, where he had planned to spend the winter. Trying to keep the initiative, he sent his son to Oricum at the head of the Egyptian fleet, and Caesar's garrison was caught by surprise. Most of the Caesar's ships lying at anchor in the inner port, which is a lagoon today, were burned. Some months later Pompey decided to attack his opponent's camp near Petra of Dyrrhachion by surprise. His men disembarked from ships and went into the depths of the defensive lines, took the fortifications and put Caesar's army to flight. Leaving 960 of his men dead on the field of battle, Caesar withdrew in good order through the Aous valley into Macedonia. Pompey headed in the same direction, by but a shorter route along the Via Egnatia through Candavia. The decisive battle between the two armies took place in Pharsala of Thessaly, where Caesar resoundingly defeated his opponent, paving the way for the age of autocratic rule in Rome.

This adventure can be referenced from 3 ancient historical resources: 'Bellum Civile' of Caesar (diary of the war); 'Bella civilia' of Appian and 'Pharsalia' of Lucan.











# PALASA AND THE AREA AROUND



The villages of the area around Palasa (Himara Municipality) still distinguish for their traditional character as hillside settlements, with a very traditional architecture of characteristic facades and the groves at the terraced hillsides as a strong cultural heritage identity of them.

The old coastal villages such as Palasa, Dhermi, Ilias, Vunoi, Himara, Old Qeparo, Kudhes, Corraj, Sasaj, Piqeras, Lukove, Shenvasil and Nivica are built a few kilometres up from the shore. The layout of these villages is characterised by their adaptation to the terrain, their density and their formal cohesion. They are mainly surrounded by terraced olive tree plantations, vineyards and orchards. Generally, they are very compact and developed around a plaza which has a plane tree, a spring, a church or a community building, e.g. a coffee shop and goods store. The houses built before the WW II show the typical characteristics of the traditional houses built in oblong stones carefully joined with a very thin layer of mortar and the corners made of larger stones for locking the walls together. Roofs are four-sided pitch roofs. The old houses present a typical Ionian coastal architecture what makes south Albanian coast extremely attractive. The number of stories is usually 1 - 2 and does not exceed 3 in all the houses.









## TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE

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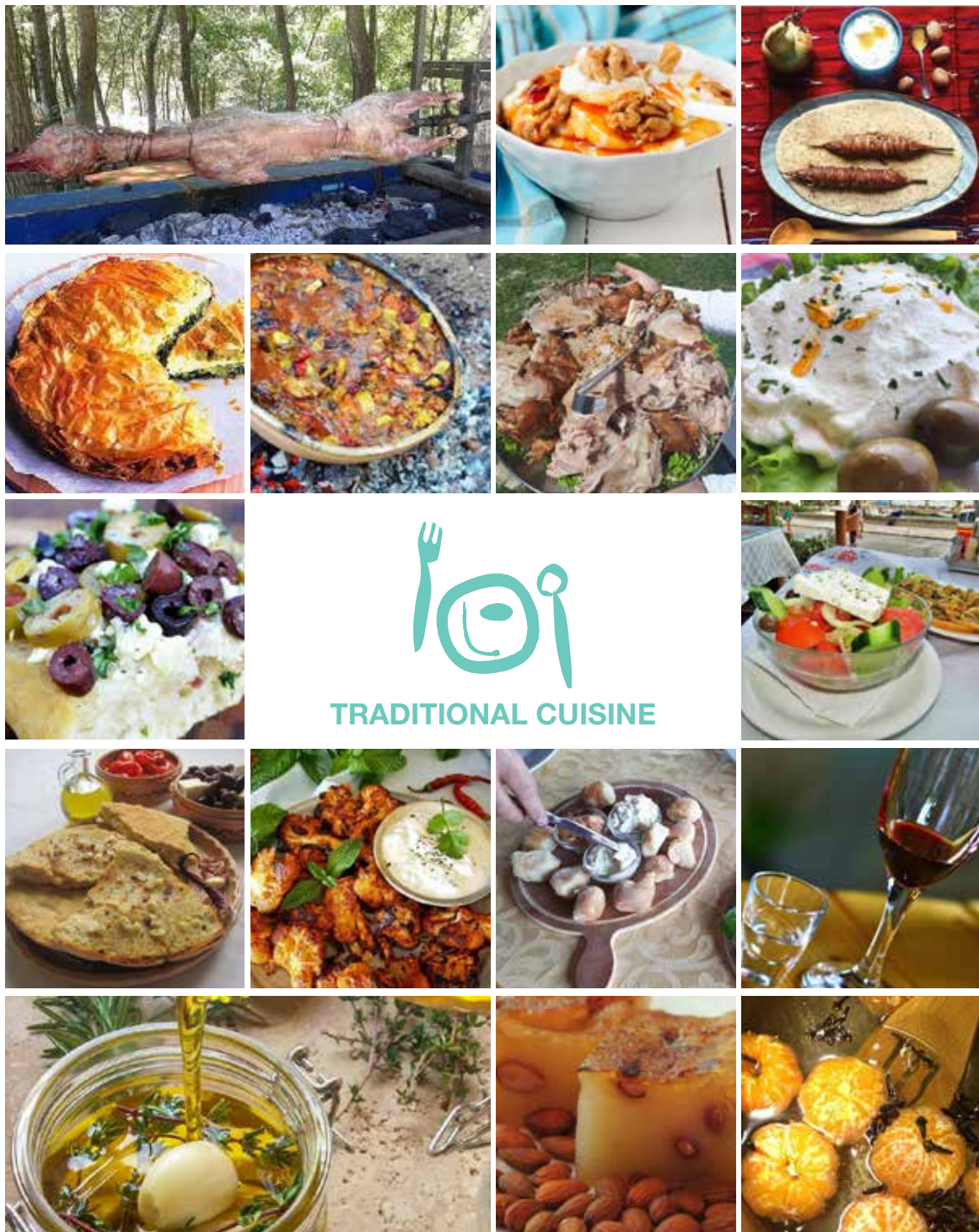
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# GASTRONOMY

The traditional cuisine in Vlorë county is rich and diversified with similarities but also distinctions between the coastal area and the hinterland as well as among the districts themselves. It reflects the agriculture and livestock produce cultivated in the county's rural area as well as fishery in the coastal area. Some traditional specialities are typical for Vlorë Region in both coastal and hinterland areas as it is the grilled lamb or kid (of one year) on a skewer, "arapash", "kukurec", "përshesh" with turkey or goose, pie with different ingredients,





traditional mix salad of tomato and cucumber with cheese and olives. The use of "kos" (yogurt), strong white cheese of goat/cow/sheep, "gjize" (made by boiling yogurt and dribbling it), strong cheese known as "kackavall", as well as olives and olive oil is common in every table. Traditional spirits use in the area is raki and wine. Raki is used widely in all the county, while wine has been less in common; mainly used in Narta village and Himara. The main varieties of wine produced locally are Kallmet, Shesh and Vlosh wines.

Although the country's cuisine is largely meat-based, fresh fish is readily available and caught off the coastal areas of the Adriatic and Ionian Sea. It's served whole or in slices in the Mediterranean style, grilled, boiled, fried dressed only with freshly squeezed lemon juice. Fish dishes are often flavored with white vinegar and virgin olive oil, which particularly grows in Southern Albania. Popular seafood dishes include trout, calamari, octopus, cuttlefish, red mullet, sea bass, gilt-head bream and other.





# NAZAR BEACH

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Nazar Beach is an elite ambience at Green Coast Promenade, the first of its kind in Albania. Boho Style architecture, premium and elegant atmosphere, beach lounge tunes, International know-how in management, high quality service and signature cocktails, are the attributes that differentiate Nazar Beach from all the rest in Albania.

A celebration of traditional craftsmanship, organic materials and a bohemian style interior design, presenting a tactile, laid-back premium atmosphere. All the visitors can experience the services of an exclusive new culinary destination, or celebrate the sunset and vibrant parties at its fullest.

This perfect escape in Palasa's beach is designed by AK Architects, a Greek company specialized in similar project in Greek Islands.









# OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

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Water Sports



Tandem Flights & Paragliding





Cycling



Hiking



Scuba Diving



Fishing





# GREEN COAST

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